

Claims

1. A method of operating a mobile terminal, the method comprising:
 - 5 accessing a service portal via a bi-directional network;
 - selecting an item on a service menu included in the service portal and corresponding to a broadcast service;
 - receiving channel parameter data relating to the corresponding broadcast service from the service portal;
 - 10 using the received channel parameter data to open a communications channel; and
 - receiving broadcast data for the broadcast service through the communications channel.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the channel parameter data includes an Internet protocol address and/or a port number relating to the broadcast service.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising receiving service information data.
- 20 4. A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the service information data comprises one or more of an IP/MAC notification table, a network information table, and a program mapping table.
- 25 5. A method as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4, comprising receiving the service information data from the service portal.
6. A method as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4, comprising receiving the service information data over a broadcast network.
- 30 7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising receiving data from the service portal identifying an application, and, in response, opening the application in the mobile terminal.

8. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claim, in which the service portal is a wireless application protocol service.
- 5 9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising sending data identifying a subscriber, the mobile terminal and/or terminal capabilities to the service portal.
10. 10. A mobile terminal comprising:
 - means for accessing a service portal via a bi-directional network;
 - means for allowing selection of an item on a service menu included in the portal and corresponding to a broadcast service;
 - means for receiving from the portal channel parameter data relating to the broadcast service;
 - 15 means for opening a communications channel using the channel parameter data; and
 - means for receiving broadcast data for the broadcast service through the communications channel.
- 20 11. A terminal as claimed in claim 10, in which the channel parameter data includes an Internet protocol address and/or a port number relating to the broadcast service.
- 25 12. A terminal as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, comprising means for receiving service information data.
13. A terminal as claimed in claim 12, in which the service information data comprises one or more of an IP/MAC notification table, a network information table, and a program mapping table.
- 30 14. A terminal as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13, arranged to receive the service information data from the service portal.

15. A terminal as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13, arranged to receive the service information data over a broadcast network.

16. A terminal as claimed in any of claims 10 to 15, comprising means responsive to data received from the service portal identifying an application for opening the application in the terminal.

17. A terminal as claimed in any of claims 10 to 16, in which the service portal is a wireless application protocol service.

18. A mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 10 to 17, further comprising means for sending data identifying a subscriber, the terminal and/or terminal capabilities to the service portal.

19. A method of operating a service portal, the method comprising:
storing data relating to channel parameters of one or more broadcast services;
providing one or more selectable items on a service menu, each item relating to a broadcast service; and
in response to the selection of an item from a remote terminal, sending channel parameter data relating to the corresponding broadcast service to the remote terminal.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising recording the number of occasions of each item being selected.

21. A method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20, comprising:
determining which services the terminal is capable of consuming and/or is permitted to access, and
providing on the service menu only items relating to appropriate services.

22. A method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20, comprising:

determining whether the terminal is capable of consuming and/or is permitted to access the broadcast service relating to the selected item, and in response to a negative determination, providing a service menu listing one or more appropriate services.

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23. A method as claimed in any of claims 19 to 22, comprising transmitting data identifying an application suitable for consuming the broadcast service.

24. A service portal arranged:

10 to store data relating to channel parameters of one or more broadcast services;
to provide one or more selectable items on a service menu, each item relating to a broadcast service; and
to be responsive to the selection of an item by a remote terminal to send
15 channel parameter data relating to the corresponding broadcast service to the remote terminal.

25. A service portal as claimed in claim 24, comprising means for recording the number of occasions of each item being selected.

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26. A service portal as claimed in claim 24 or claim 25, arranged to determine services the terminal is capable of consuming and/or is permitted to access, and to provide on the service menu only items relating to appropriate services.

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27. A service portal as claimed in claim 24 or claim 25, comprising means arranged to determine whether the terminal is capable of consuming and/or is permitted to access the broadcast service relating to a selected item, and responsive to a negative determination to provide a service menu listing one or more appropriate services.

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28. A service portal as claimed in any of claims 24 to 27, arranged to transmit data identifying an application suitable for consuming the broadcast service.

29. A system comprising a service portal accessible via a bi-directional network by a mobile terminal,

the service portal being arranged to provide a service menu comprising one or more items each corresponding to a broadcast service;

5 the mobile terminal being arranged for allowing selection of one of the items;

the service portal being responsive to an item selection to send to the mobile terminal channel parameter information relating to the corresponding broadcast service;

10 the mobile terminal being arranged to use the channel parameter information to open a communications channel, and to receive broadcast data for the broadcast service through the communications channel.

30. A method of operating a system comprising a service portal and a mobile

15 terminal, the method comprising:

accessing the service portal from the mobile terminal via a bi-directional network;

providing a service menu comprising one or more items each corresponding to a broadcast service;

20 using the mobile terminal to select one of the items;

sending from the service portal to the mobile terminal channel parameter information relating to the broadcast service;

at the mobile terminal, using the received channel parameter information to open a communications channel; and

25 at the mobile terminal, receiving broadcast data for the broadcast service through the communications channel.